Amendments to the Specification

The following refers to the paragraph numbering as indicated in the application as published:

Please replace paragraph [0019] with the following replacement paragraph:

[0019] a DTE port having at least one signal line to establish one of said plurality of communication paths, said DTE having a [[ser]] set of transceivers each associated with a respective circuit in said DTE to establish communication along said communication path in accordance with a selected protocol;

Please replace paragraph [0036] with the following replacement paragraph:

[0036] Each of the transceivers 30 provides output signals to each of the multiplexers 26, such that an appropriate transceiver 30 is selected by the multiplexers 26 based on the characteristics of the interface driver circuit 34 as indicated by the tether ID signal 29. The tether identification signal 29 ~~generates~~ selects pins 24 by a selection signal from the interface controller 28, and determines as to which of the plurality of a particular transceiver 30 output signals are to be coupled to the connector .

Please replace paragraph [0037] with the following replacement paragraph:

[0037] In operation, when a DCE interface [[16]] 18 is coupled to the DTE interface [[18]] 16, the interface controller 28 detects the presence of a tether ID signal 29 issued by the tether determination module 36. This ID signal indicates the electrical interface standard specific to that external device 14. The tether ID signal is then interpreted by the interface controller 28, which then provides an input channel SELECT control signal to the multiplexers 26 causing each of the multiplexers 26 to select one of its outputs. The appropriate one of the transceivers 30 is then connected through the multiplexers 26 to the pins 24. The other transceivers 30 are isolated. Connectors of a different DCE 14 provide a different identifier signal and selection of a different

output for each of the multiplexers 26. When no device is attached to the port 16, the

multiplexers 26 select the null pin that properly terminates each of the signal lines.

Appl. No. 10/624,507
Reply to Office Action of: September 12, 2005

3